

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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April 11, 2008

To the citizens of Valdosta and Lowndes County:

We would like to set the record straight regarding the study that the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce has commissioned to study the impact of school organization on economic development in our community.

Contrary to the impression created by the headline in the April 9th issue of the Valdosta Daily Times, the Chamber is not leading the charge to consolidate the school systems. While the Valdosta Daily Times has already taken a pro-consolidation position (thus the headline), the Chamber has not.

We do believe there is a correlation between the quality of education, the ability to create better paying jobs and quality of life. However, we do not know if the current school organization helps or hinders our ability to provide the best possible education for all children in our community, now or in the future. That is the purpose of the study.

Walter Hobgood
Chairman of the Board